

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 032332Z MAR 75

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9327

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 650

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR PLO

SUBJ: PLO PLANS FOR NEW YORK OBSERVER OFFICE

1. HEAD OF NEW YORK PLO INFORMATION OFFICE SAADAT HASAN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TALKS IN BEIRUT WITH PLO LEADERSHIP, HAS OUTLINED FOR US PRESENT PLO THINKING REGARDING UN OBSERVER OFFICE.

A. HASAN WILL HIMSELF HEAD OFFICE UNTIL SUMMER, ARAFAT HAVING PERSUADED HIM TO STAY ON THREE MONTHS LONGER THAN HE HAD PLANNED.

B. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED WHO WILL TAKE HASAN'S PLACE. (ZUHDI TARAZI WILL REMAIN NUMBER TWO EVEN AFTER HASAN LEAVES.) THREE POSSIBLE CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED HIM, HASAN SAID, WERE FAYEZ SAYEGH (KUWAITI MISSION COUNSELOR), BURHAN HAMMAD (UAE ATTACHE) AND PROFESSOR KHALIDI, HEAD OF POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPT AT AUB. NABIL SHAATH REPORTEDLY WOULD NOT GIVE UP HIS AUB TENURE TO TAKE ON THE JOB.

C. PLO INTENTION WAS TO RELOCATE INFORMATION AND OBSERVER OFFICES IN ONE SUITE OF OFFICES IF US HAD NO OBJECTION, BOTH FOR REASONS OF SECURITY AND CONVENIENCE. STAFF OF TWO OFFICES WOULD CONSIST OF FIVE OR SIX OFFICERS, STATIONED IN NEW YORK
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THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, PLUS CLERICAL EMPLOYEES.

D. HASAN RAISED QUESTION OF PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFYING PLO OFFICIALS TO UN AND US. HE SAID HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO INFORM UN OF PROSPECTIVE OBSERVER OFFICE OFFICIALS UNTIL US HAD INFORMALLY INDICATED AGREEMENT TO ISSUE THEM VISAS. FOR THIS REASON, HE HAD NOT YET NOTIFIED TARAZI'S NAME TO SECRETARIAT. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS HOW TO RESPOND TO HASAN ON THIS MATTER.

E. HASAN SAID HE SINCERELY HOPED US WOULD NOT ISSUE VISAS TO PLO OBSERVERS THAT RESTRICTED THEIR TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW YORK. PLO DEL HAD LAST FALL VIEWED THIS RESTRICTION AS EXTREMELY GALLING. NOW THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS HAD BEEN LIFTED FOR CUBAN DEL, HASAN FELT RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE SEEN AS EVEN MORE HUMILIATING IF AGAIN IMPOSED ON PLO. HE HOPED PLO WOULD BE TREATED LIKE OTHER UN OBSERVER MISSIONS, BOTH WITH RESPECT TO VISAS AND PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.
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